

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 L-03 H-02 ACDA-07 /055 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA/EA:COL. CHING/MR. BLEAKLEY:AP

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

DOD/ISA - RADM CROWE

PM - JSCOTT

EA - RMILLER

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O R 240105Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPACAF

JCS

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACREPPHIL

13TH AF

CSAF

CNO

S E C R E T STATE 099293

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE A4 TRAINING

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REF: A) MANILA 5546; B) SINGAPORE 2004;
C) MANILA 5630

1. WITH REGARD TO THE OVERALL APPROACH ON SINGAPORE A4 TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES, WE WISH TO BE FULLY COOPERATIVE IN ASSISTING GOS AND GOP IN THIS MATTER. AS A MINIMUM, WE SHOULD HOST A MEETING BETWEEN US MILITARY AND RSAF SURVEY TEAM TO DEFINE REQUIREMENTS AND MATCH US CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT A4 TRAINING, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW BEST TO ACCOMPLISH GOS TRAINING OBJECTIVES. US HOSTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ESCORT TEAM TO FACILITIES AT CUBI AND CLARK AB AS OUTLINED PARA 2 REF C AND IDENTIFY US POINTS OF CONTACT.

2. OUR VIEW ON THREE QUESTIONS POSED REF A IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. WE AGREE WITH EMB SINGAPORE THAT WE SHOULD TAKE UP ANY CONTINGENCY RELOCATIONS FROM THAILAND TO SINGAPORE SEPARATELY RATHER THAN ASSOCIATING THEM AS A DIRECT QUID PRO QUO FOR ANY US ASSISTANCE WE COULD OFFER IN THE PHILIPPINES. USG ALREADY ON RECORD AS EMPHASIZING THE MUTUALITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE OF OUR INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN THE SECURITY FIELD. MOREOVER, WE FEEL THAT A FORTHCOMING AND HELPFUL APPROACH TOWARD GOS REQUESTS WITHOUT ATTACHMENT OF A QUID AT THIS TIME IS THE BEST WAY TO REACH P.M. LEE KUAN YEW AND GAIN HIS COOPERATION AND SUPPORT. HOWEVER, WE AGREE WITH VIEW THAT OUR ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING PROVIDES COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR PENDING US REQUESTS. WE WOULD LEAVE TO DISCRETION OF EMB SINGAPORE HOW TO MAXIMIZE THIS LEVERAGE.

B. WE SHARE EMB MANILA'S CONCERN THAT STATUS OF FORCES ARRANGEMENTS MADE BETWEEN GOS AND GOP NOT, RPT NOT UNDERCUT OUR OWN SOFA AND FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP PARTICULARLY ON SUCH MATTERS AS CRIMINAL JURISDICTION. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT US POSITION IS BEST PROTECTED BY DIVORCING THESE TWO FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT TYPES OF ARRANGEMENTS. WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO GOP AND TO GOS THAT STATUS OF GOS FORCES IN PHILIPPINES IS A MATTER TO BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS

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WITH REFERENCE TO THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE GOS FORCES WHICH ARE QUITE UNLIKE THE LONG-TERM BASING ARRANGEMENTS FOR US FORCES. THERE IS AMPLE INTERNATIONAL PRECEDENT FOR CONSIDERING THE STATUS OF SHORT-TERM TRAINEES AS DISTINCT FROM THAT ESTABLISHED IN BASES AGREEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, TOTAL LACK OF STATUS ACCORDED BY GOJ TO KOREAN TRAINEES AT US BASES IN JAPAN HAS NOT UNDERCUT LONG-STANDING US SOFA ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE GOJ.

C. WITH REFERENCE TO THE THIRD POINT OF REF A, WE
NOTE THAT EMB SINGAPORE INDICATES THIS PROBLEM NOT LIKELY
TO ARISE, BUT EMB SINGAPORE AT ITS DISCRETION COULD NOTE
TO GOS OUR ASSUMPTION THAT QUESTION OF ANY THIRD COUNTRY
NATIONALS, SUCH AS TAIWANESE, WOULD BE WORKED OUT WITH
GOP.

3. WHILE NO, RPT, NO DEFINITIVE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE
MADE UNTIL AFTER SINGAPORE SURVEY TEAM VISITS PHILIPPINES,
SURVEY DOES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE THIS PROJECT.
REQUEST EMB MANILA COORDINATE RECOMMENDATION TO
WASHINGTON AGENCY REGARDING DETAILS OF ESTABLISHING A4
TRAINING PROGRAM FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF SURVEY. SISCO

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY TRAINING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE099293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COL. CHING/MR. BLEAKLEY:AP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760155-0546
From: STATE JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760426/aaaaavls.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 5546, 76 SINGAPORE 2004
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINGAPORE A4 TRAINING SECRET
TAGS: MARR, RP, SN, US
To: SINGAPORE CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006